

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-12 (Canceled)

---

13. (Currently Amended) A friction management method for an support—object having an exposed surface loading against supporting—a portion of a human body having support bones, tissue around the support bones and skin on an outer side of the tissue, including selecting pressure regions of high loads when a load is carried between the object and the portion of the human body supported, applying selected patches of material having low friction surfaces interfaced between portions of the exposed surface of the object and the skin in the selected pressure regions.

14. (Original) The friction management of claim 13, wherein the object comprises a shoe, and the selected regions include the metatarsal-phalangeal joint region.

15. (Currently Amended) The friction management method of claim ~~14~~13, wherein ~~the calcaneus region comprises the region supported on low friction surface patches—~~ comprises a calcaneus region.

16. (Original) The friction management method of claim 13, wherein the object comprises a prosthetic device having a socket for receiving a portion of a limb to be supported, and providing patches at specific high load locations between an interior surface of the socket and a supported limb.

17. (Currently Amended) A method of reducing trauma to tissue ~~supported on—loaded against exposed surface portions of an object~~ including ~~steps of—~~ selecting a plurality of support regions of high load wherein shear load on tissue is likely to cause or has

caused damage, and providing a low friction surface patch between each of the plurality of the selected regions of high load and an object supporting the tissue-, such that only the selected regions are supported on low friction surface patches.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17, including a step of selecting the low friction surface patches which are made of material ~~to have~~ having a coefficient of friction substantially equal to that of polytetrafluoroethylene.

19. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the selecting step includes identifying support regions where low friction surface patches are omitted.

20. (Original) The method of claim 17 including the step of providing a patch having a low coefficient of friction material exposed on oppositely facing support surfaces of the patch.

21. (New) The method of claim 17 including one of the steps of adding and relocating at least one low friction surface patch after the tissue has been loaded against on the object for a period of time.

22. (New) The friction management system of claim 13, wherein the patches are removably affixed to the portions of the exposed surface, the portion of the human body being supported on the exposed surface in regions other than the selected regions.

23. (New) A method of reducing trauma to highly shear loaded tissue supported under load against exposed support surfaces of an object only in selected region of the exposed support surface, including selecting at least one region of high load where shear load on tissue is likely to cause or has caused discomfort, and

providing a plurality of low friction surface patches releasably securable in place relative to the exposed support surface, ~~applying~~ placing at least one of the patches between at least one selected region of ~~high load~~ tissue and the exposed support surface of the object supporting and loading the tissue such that only the at least one selected region is supported on a low friction surface patch.

24.(New) The method of claim 23, wherein the patches comprise a film of polytetrafluoroethylene having a bonded stretch fabric on one side of the film such that the film moves with the stretch fabric, and conforming the stretch fabric to contours of the support surface in the at least one selected region.